

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SIG-01 IGA-02 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03
H-01 /098 R

DRAFTED BY AF/EPS:RBDUNCAN:MM
APPROVED BY AF - DAVID B. BOLEN
EB - RUTH GOLD
AFR/DP:CWARD
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----160524Z 046215 /15
R 151807Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, XA

SUBJECT: US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR BLACK AFRICA

1. THE SECRETARY IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS ON MARCH 23. WE HAVE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR HIS USE. THEY PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF CURRENT POLICY ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO BLACK AFRICA. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO UP-DATE AND FOR POST'S INFORMATION ONLY AT THIS STAGE.

2. -- WE DO NOT INTEND TO LET THE PRESSING POLITI-
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CAL PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA COMPLETELY OVER-
SHADOW OUR OTHER INTERESTS AND POLICIES IN AFRICA.

3. -- WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE YOU ATTACH TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR COUNTRIES. WE KNOW THAT OUR ECONOMIC FORTUNES AND FUTURES ARE LINKED WITH YOURS AND THAT WE MUST STRIVE TO BUILD TOGETHER A

WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM FROM WHICH ALL MEMBERS CLEARLY BENEFIT.

4. -- THE UNITED STATES MUST NECESSARILY VIEW ITS ECONOMIC POLICY IN GLOBAL TERMS. GLOBAL POLICIES, HOWEVER, MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT URGENT REGIONAL NEEDS.

5. -- I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT AFRICAN CONCERNS WILL BE FULLY CONSIDERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICY. WE HAVE RECEIVED A COMPLETE REPORT ON THE RECENT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE REALISM, CANDOR, ABSENCE OF HOSTILE RHETORIC, AND SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH CHARACTERIZED ITS PROCEEDINGS.

6. -- BY DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER, A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF UNITED STATES POLICY ON ALL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. I, THEREFORE, MUST REQUEST YOUR INDULGENCE IF I CANNOT NOW RESPOND TO MANY OF THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS IN THIS AREA THAT I AM SURE CONCERN YOU.

7. -- I CAN, HOWEVER, LIST A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC POLICY ACTIONS ALREADY UNDERWAY WHICH WE ARE CONVINCED WILL BE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO AFRICAN NATIONS.

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8. -- FIRST, THE STRONGER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, ARE TAKING ACTION TO STIMULATE THEIR ECONOMIES BOTH TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN GROWTH OBJECTIVES AND FOR THE GOOD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. AFRICA, PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER CONTINENT, HAS SUFFERED FROM DEPRESSED DEMAND IN RECENT YEARS FOR MANY OF ITS MAJOR EXPORTS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF AFRICA'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS CAN MAKE AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A REINVIGORATED PACE OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT.

9. -- THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THE COMMODITIES AREA REQUIRE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH, ADDRESSING PRICE STABILIZATION, TRADE, THE IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET STRUCTURES, THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT. THE UNITED STATES HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON ALL THESE ISSUES.

---- (A) WE WILL EXPLORE IN AS OPEN-MINDED AND POSITIVE MANNER AS POSSIBLE THE POTENTIAL FOR PRICE

STABILIZATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES. THE GOAL IN ANY SUCH AGREEMENTS MUST BE, IN OUR VIEW, THE STABILIZATION OF PRICES AROUND LONG-TERM MARKET TRENDS AND NOT INCREASES IN PRICES AS A MEANS TO TRANSFER RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

---- (B) WHERE SUCH AGREEMENTS INVOLVE BUFFER STOCKS AND THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATES IN SUCH AGREEMENTS, WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER SHARING IN THE FINANCING OF SUCH STOCKS WITHOUT PRE-COMMITMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

---- (C) THE UNITED STATES IS NOW PARTICIPATING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNCTAD COMMON FUND NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. WE HAVE NO A PRIORI OBJECTION TO A COMMON FUND FOR INDIVIDUALLY AGREED BUFFER STOCKS. WE ARE, THEREFORE, PREPARED WITHOUT PRE-COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE ACTIVELY ON THE POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES AND ELEMENTS OF SUCH A FUND.

10. -- THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO INTENDS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING AS REGARDS BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

11. -- WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO AFRICA.

---- (A) WE ARE SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BOTH FOR US CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY DUE UNDER THE FOURTH IDA REPLENISHMENT AND ALSO FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A FIFTH IDA REPLENISHMENT.

---- (B) OUR FY 1978 REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS FOR AID BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WILL EXCEED THE FY 1977 PROGRAM BY OVER 55 PERCENT.

---- (C) FINALLY, WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING INCREASED US CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND.

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